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PHOTO SERIES NO. 45

**PACKING JAMS AND JELLIES UNDER
USDA'S CONTINUOUS INSPECTION**

JANUARY 1960

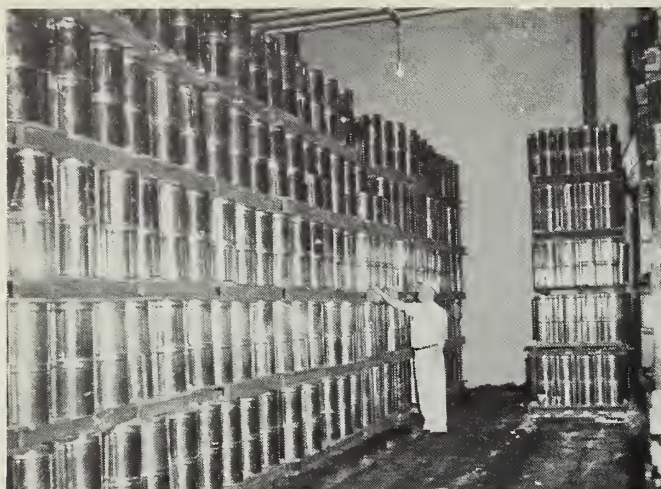
Continuous Inspection is a service of the Agricultural Marketing Service that is becoming increasingly popular with processors interested in packing quality products. Under the Continuous Inspection program, a USDA inspector is on duty at all times when the plant is in operation. He observes every step of the processing, checks the plant sanitation, and runs periodic quality checks at each stage of manufacture. His reports help the plant manager keep a close check in meeting quality standards. The inspector also issues certificates on lots, indicating the quality-grade after analyzing samples of each lot--so buyers, who request these certificates, can be sure of what they are getting. Quality is judged by USDA grades or other specifications. These pictures show a plant packing jams and jellies under the Continuous Inspection program.



N-32649 -- The USDA inspector keeps a close watch on all the operations of the processing and packing. Here, he checks the lid closure on jars as they leave the lidding machine.

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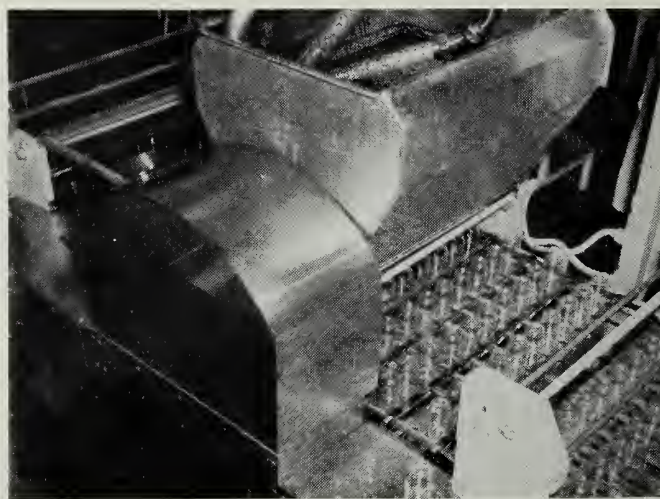
N-32635--Inspector checks the frozen fruit stocks to be used in making jams and jellies.



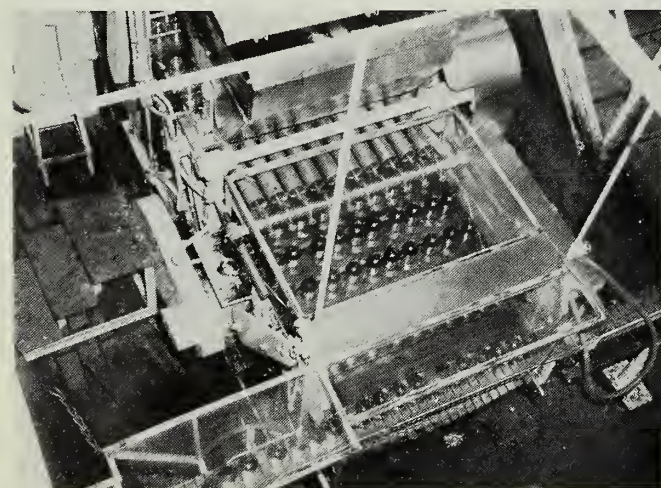
N-32643--Raspberries are examined by workers in this inspection tank before they go to the cookers to be made into jam. Any defective berries are removed.



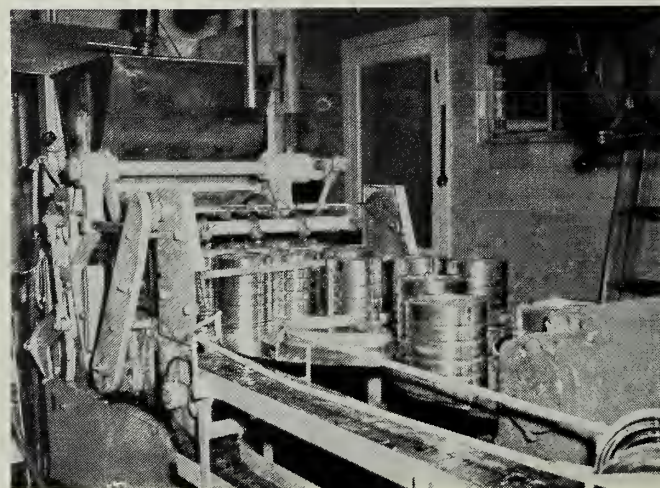
N-32644--After cooking, the jams flow into cooling pans. The quality control technician (center) has just taken a sample of jam from the tank for an "in process" test of gel strength.



N-32646--Jars move on a conveyor into the filling machine. Jam is pumped through stainless steel pipes into the holding tank on the filler.



N-32645--With each cycle of the filling machine, a measured amount of jam is pulled into the cylinders below the tank, and then is discharged into the row of jars beneath.



N-32648--A similar machine fills large cans for institutional and restaurant use.



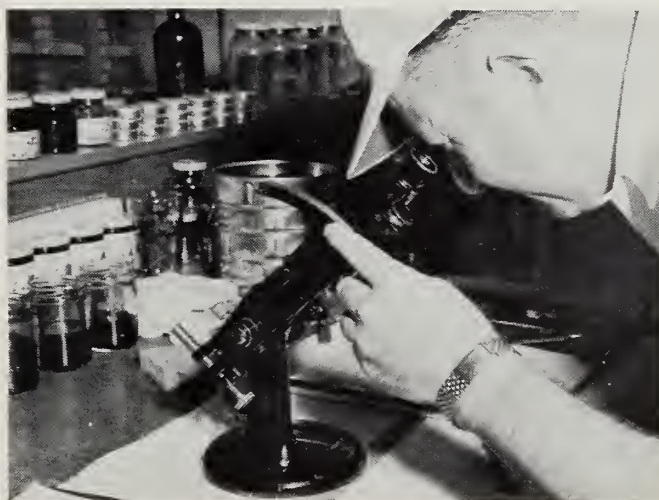
N-32647--The USDA inspector takes a sample jar from the filling line for testing. By making periodic checks, he can detect any processing problems and warn the plant superintendent before they become serious.



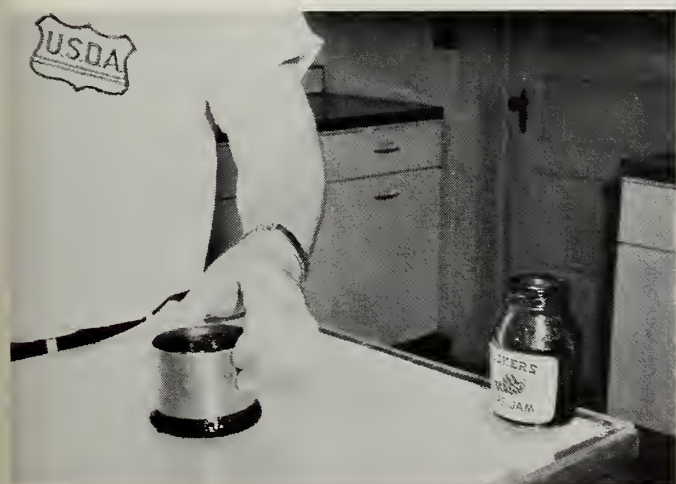
N-32637--The sample is poured into an inspection tray, so that color and defects can be graded.



N-32638--The inspector "spoons" the produce for defects.



N-32640--A sample of the product is placed in a refractometer for examination. With the aid of this device, the USDA inspector can determine the percentage of soluble solids present. Minimum soluble solids percentages are established by the Food and Drug Administration.



N-32656--Consistency also is important, and the inspector checks it with the aid of a "spreadometer." A measured amount of the product is poured into the cylinder as it rests on the center of a calibrated platform.

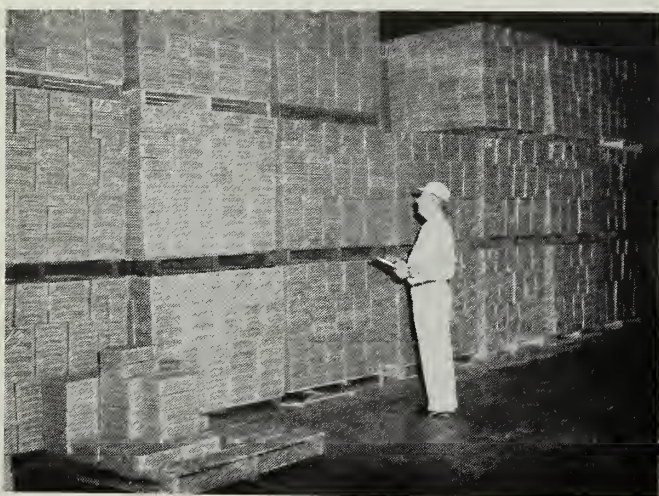


N-32657--When the cylinder is lifted off, the inspector measures how much the product spreads in a given amount of time.



N-32641--Taste-testing is the final--and most enjoyable--step in testing all the jams and jellies. The inspector's experience is especially important here in detecting flavor variations.

N-32650--As the jars come from the labeling machine, they are packed into cartons for storage or shipment.



N-32636--The cartons of jams and jellies are often stored in the plant warehouse, to await shipment. There the inspector verifies the code numbers on cases to fill an order, so that he can issue a quality certificate covering the cases to be shipped.